

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Objections

Claims 11-13 and 15 were objected to because there was no proper antecedent basis for “said cleaning fluid supply source” (claim 11 line 2, and claims 12, 13 line 3), “said conduit valve means” (claim 15 line 2), and “said supply tube and said drain tube” (claim 15 lines 4 and 5). Claims 11 and 15 have been amended in acknowledgement of these objections. Claim 11 has been amended to be dependent on claim 9, not 10 in order to establish a proper antecedent basis. This amendment effectively cures claims 12 & 13 as they are dependent on claim 11. Claim 15 has also been amended to be dependent on claim 9, not 10, and “means” has been deleted from the previous phrase “said conduit valve means.”

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Kurz (‘295). With respect to claim 1, Applicant respectfully traverses. Claim 1 includes the limitations “a conduit in communication with said first and second supply lines and said first return line” and “a conduit valve in said conduit to control flow through the conduit, wherein opening the conduit valve enables fluid from the first or second supply line through the conduit to bypass the press.” Nothing in the recited Kurz reference describes two supply lines in communication with a conduit. While Kurz does describe a bypass to the dampening solution trough with a switchover valve, it is only in connection with one supply line and one fluid. Therefore, Applicant

respectfully submits that Kurz fails to show each limitation of Applicant's claim 1 and a Notice of Allowance, therefore, is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 2-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Clauditz ('576) in view of Marschke ('044). Claims 16-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Clauditz ('576).

Applicant would respectfully submit that Clauditz, despite having superficial similarities, does not teach a fluid supply system having substantially the structure as recited in this application with respect to critical components. A review of Clauditz has failed to reveal any teaching or suggestion for allowing a cleaning fluid or air to bypass the printing press through a conduit. More specifically, it must be noted that while Clauditz teaches a method to prevent two liquids from entering the press (Clauditz col. 13. ln. 53-55, col. 14. ln 37-41) it does not teach a method for allowing compressed air to bypass the press in a recirculating closed loop. Clauditz even notes that the compressed air should be turned off prior to reaching the printing press so that the compressed air does not splash the coating liquid mixture carried within the applicator trough (Clauditz, col.12. ln. 47-51). Therefore, Applicant would respectfully submit that applicant's inclusion of a conduit to allow a liquid or air to completely bypass the printing press through the return line clearly distinguishes the claimed invention over Clauditz.

In addition, Applicant's fluid supply system allows two fluids to be used continuously without being contaminated by the other fluid. The examiner notes that Clauditz teaches a fluid supply system having substantially the method of supplying fluid to a press as recited except the step of draining the first fluid from the press via the drain tube. The examiner indicates that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to drain the first fluid. Applicant

would respectfully submit that it would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill to drain *one* of the fluids. Clauditz does teach the draining of the fluid *mixture* (Clauditz col 12. ln. 68). However, it is important to note that Clauditz does not teach any fluid system structure nor is there any suggestion for draining two different fluids at different times without exposing one liquid to the other. In addition, it must be noted that Clauditz teaches away from the idea of having two fluids completely separated at all times since Clauditz is meant to optimize the combination of liquid base and thinner to achieve the proper viscosity of the coating material. The Applicant's fluid supply system is a completely integrated system which allows the two fluids to be used continuously through separate supply sources that are connected to the drain line. The Applicant respectfully submits that the cited prior art fails to make obvious this innovative solution to an industry problem. In light of the distinctions between the fluid system as recited in this application and Clauditz, Applicant would respectfully propose that claims 16-21 are not unpatentable 35 U.S.C. §103 over Clauditz and claims 2-15 are not unpatentable 35 U.S.C. §103 over Clauditz in view of Marshcke.

In regards to Kurtz, Falck, et al., Piccinino et al. and Gasparrini et al., while they have general similarities, the Applicant respectfully submits that for the reasons discussed above any combination of the above would not make obvious to one skilled in the art a fluid system which allows the recirculation of two distinct coating materials that prevents any interaction of the two fluids within any of the supply lines, reservoirs, nozzles, valves, etc..

CONCLUSION

It is the Applicants' belief that all of the claims presented in this application are now in condition for allowance, and action toward that end is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any further questions or comments facilitating allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative indicated below to further prosecution of this application to allowance and issuance.

In view of the above, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance, and such a Notice is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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